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For PAL kids.

Volume 24 Issue 177 WEDNESDAY 7/30/25 smdp.com

Thousands expected at 49th annual festival of the chariots in Venice

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Three towering, hand-pulled chariots will roll through Santa Monica and Venice on Sunday, Aug. 3, marking the 49th annual Festival of the Chariots, one of North America's longest-running celebrations of Indian culture and spirituality.

The festival, organized by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), expects to draw 30,000 to 50,000 participants and spectators for a day-long celebration that transforms Venice Beach into what organizers call a "mini-India."

The parade begins at 10 a.m. at the Santa Monica Civic Center and proceeds south along Main Street before turning onto the Venice Beach Boardwalk, concluding at Windward Plaza around midday. City authorities will close Main Street to traffic from 8 a.m. until the parade passes to accommodate the

SEE **CHARIOTS** PAGE 11



Courtesy photo

FESTIVAL OF THE CHARIOTS: Three forty-foot chariots to parade from Santa Monica to Venice on Sunday, August 3rd

Weeks of traffic disruptions planned for local freeways

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Drivers on both sides of the Santa Monica Mountains will experience delays and disruptions in coming weeks as multiple projects close lanes on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and the 405.

Caltrans has announced single-lane closures will continue on PCH between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Las Flores Canyon Road through late September as recovery work from the Palisades Fire and winter storms progresses.

The ongoing closures allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and utility crews to complete critical infrastructure work during daytime hours and weekends. The Army Corps is clearing properties on a stretch of PCH south of Las Flores Canyon Road through Aug. 3, while Southern California Edison began two months of work this week between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Big Rock Drive.

For worker and public safety, southbound PCH will be reduced to one lane between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays at both locations. Northbound PCH will face similar restrictions from 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Big Rock Drive, and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays south of Las Flores Canyon Road.

Weekend travelers face additional disruptions, with the stretch south of Las Flores Canyon reduced to one lane in both directions from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Army Corps work.

The closures are part of extensive recovery efforts after PCH remained shuttered for five months following the Palisades Fire and subsequent winter storms that brought flooding and debris flows to the coastal

SEE **PCH** PAGE 6

County extends price gouging protections for wildfire victims

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday extended housing price gouging protections for residents displaced by January's devastating wildfires through Aug. 30, continuing safeguards that limit rent increases and prevent evictions during the ongoing recovery.

The board approved a motion by Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Kathryn Barger to renew protections under state and local law that cap rent and hotel rate increases during declared emergencies and prohibit landlords from evicting tenants to re-rent units at higher prices.

"Seven months in, our residents still need protection from predatory practices that make housing even more unaffordable and unattainable in these times of crisis," Horvath said. "By extending these protections, we're helping ensure that every family has the chance to rebuild without fear of being priced

SEE **PRICE** PAGE 7

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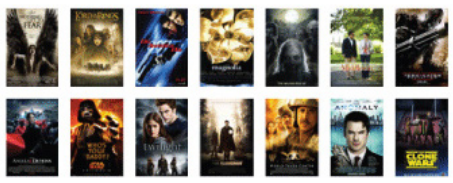
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So many reasons to stay put: What's behind California's frozen housing market?



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local
HOUSES: A home in the Tower District in central Fresno on June 2, 2022.

The national housing market is stuck in a post-pandemic rut.

Prices and interest rates have stalled out at unaffordable highs, keeping buyers at bay. Sellers, unable to fetch the still-higher prices they want, are backing out of the market in droves. The result is a housing market stuck in molasses, with a slow down in new listings, stagnant sales and an uptick in deals cancelled at the last minute.

If the county as a whole is in the middle of a housing market drought, conditions look especially parched in California.

New homes listed for sale fell by more than 17% in San Francisco, compared to the same time last year, according to online real estate broker Redfin. There were double-digit year-over-year declines in listings in San Diego, Riverside, Anaheim too. Of the 10 metros where new listings fell fastest, five were in California.

"The number of transactions have absolutely slowed down," said Amy Kong, a real estate agent who works in and around San Francisco. "As everyone knows, it's because of the higher interest rates and the affordability, which is just really, really low."

Part of the market slow down can be blamed on a nationwide financial pathology that dates back half a decade, said Daryl Fairweather, Redfin's chief economist. As mortgage borrowing costs have whipsawed from ultra-low to harrowingly high over the last five years, the gap between what most current homeowners pay for their mortgage and what they would pay if they were to borrow and buy again has reached historic highs. That makes this an inauspicious time for most homeowners to sell.

But as with so many of the nation's housing woes, things are even worse in California thanks to the specific "dysfunctions" of our market and the particularities of our property tax system that date back to the 1970s, said Fairweather.

Taken all together, California homeowners "have extra reasons to stay put," she said.

That means fewer opportunities for aspiring homeowners, more pressure on the rental market as discouraged would-be buyers find themselves shunted there and prices that are likely to remain persistently high, despite high interest rates meant to cool things off.

California's housing market has been in a kind of holding pattern for years, said Oscar Wei, economist with the California Association of Realtors. "I thought by now we would see sales coming back up a little bit more," he said.

Unanswered questions about the future of the economy, tariffs and what they might mean for inflation, the stock market and how all of the above will influence interest rates are likely holding both buyers and sellers back, he explained.

And then there's the persistent borrowing cost gap, which economists dub the "lock-in effect."

In an effort to jump-start an economy that had ground to a halt during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Reserve brought borrowing rates down to near-zero. Homebuyers tapped those low rates to buy homes. Existing homeowners scrambled to refinance to lower their costs.

Two and half years later and facing the new crisis of rapidly rising prices, the Fed jacked borrowing costs back up. For homeowners who took out fixed-rate mortgages (most do) when borrowing costs were low, the sudden rate bounce made selling a home with plans

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 7

California sues after Trump demands access to sensitive data about food stamp recipients



Photo by Anne Wernikoff, CalMatters

FARMERS MARKET: Berkeley resident Alex McNall uses CalFresh tokens to purchase vegetables at the Ecology Center farmers' market in downtown Berkeley on July 13, 2019. CalFresh participants can purchase tokens at the market using their benefits card and can receive up to $10 in additional tokens specifically for fruits and vegetables.

California,18 other Democrat-led states and Washington, D.C. are suing the Trump administration to halt the U.S. Department of Agriculture from collecting sensitive information about people who receive federal food vouchers, known as SNAP.

The Trump administration told states to provide the data by July 30 or risk losing federal funding to administer the program. California receives $1.3 billion annually to distribute about $12 billion a year to 5 million residents who rely on the food vouchers, called CalFresh in California. About 13% of the state's population receives the aid.

"The purpose of what the Trump administration is doing here is to target immigrant communities," said Michigan's Attorney General Dana Nessel, during a press conference today. She said Trump's actions "send a chilling effect to American citizens, and to tell them that if they apply for programs that they are perfectly entitled to under law, their most personal and sensitive data is going to be shared with all kinds of people, and it's going to have the impact, and I think it already is, of scaring people away from seeking these increased incredibly important programs."

Residents without lawful legal status in the U.S. are not eligible for SNAP benefits. However, during Trump's first term, he proposed eliminating benefits even for "mixed-status" families where at least one person in a household lacks legal status.

In another example of policies that put California at odds with the Trump administration's effort to crack down on immigrants living in the U.S., the state has tried to expand food benefits to some immigrants without legal status. In 2022, California became the first state in the nation to offer about $165 a month in food benefits to about 35,000 immigrants, mostly to recent green card holders. That expansion was part of the California Food Assistance Program, or CFAP, a state-funded version of food stamps.

Advocates for that effort argued many farmworkers toil in fields for decades at low wages, providing food to the rest of the nation, and then are unable to buy enough to eat, especially when they become senior citizens.

WHY STATES ARE SUING

Attorneys general that are filing the suit argue that the Trump administration's policy is "arbitrary and capricious," violates the 10th Amendment that protects states' rights as well as various privacy laws.

"We're seeing a number of different cases recently where there's this Spending Clause violation, where new conditions that Congress never put on the funding are being added by the executive branch after the fact," said California Attorney General Rob Bonta. "They can't do that."

The suit will be filed today in the federal Northern District of California. It is the 35th time in 27 weeks that California has sued the Trump administration.

"SNAP applicants provide their private information on the understanding, backed by long-standing state and federal laws, that their information will not be used for unrelated purposes," Bonta said.

The Trump administration has tried to

SEE **TRUMP** PAGE 4



Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 74.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 63. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 74.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2025/07/30	Wed	01:04 AM	4.05		H
2025/07/30	Wed	07:19 AM	1.33		L
2025/07/30	Wed	2:13 PM	4.62		H
2025/07/30	Wed	8:41 PM	2.13		L
2025/07/31	Thu	02:04 AM	3.33		H
2025/07/31	Thu	07:40 AM	1.91		L
2025/07/31	Thu	2:55 PM	4.65		H
2025/07/31	Thu	10:26 PM	1.95		L
2025/08/01	Fri	03:55 AM	2.80		H
2025/08/01	Fri	07:55 AM	2.42		L
2025/08/01	Fri	3:48 PM	4.70		H
2025/08/02	Sat	12:02 AM	1.52		L
2025/08/02	Sat	4:49 PM	4.83		H
2025/08/03	Sun	01:05 AM	1.02		L
2025/08/03	Sun	5:48 PM	5.07		H
2025/08/04	Mon	01:50 AM	0.54		L
2025/08/04	Mon	09:05 AM	3.39		H
2025/08/04	Mon	12:03 PM	3.15		L
2025/08/04	Mon	6:41 PM	5.39		H
2025/08/05	Tue	02:25 AM	0.13		L
2025/08/05	Tue	09:19 AM	3.58		H
2025/08/05	Tue	1:01 PM	2.99		L
2025/08/05	Tue	7:26 PM	5.76		H
2025/08/06	Wed	02:57 AM	-0.23		L
2025/08/06	Wed	09:37 AM	3.74		H
2025/08/06	Wed	1:46 PM	2.75		L
2025/08/06	Wed	8:05 PM	6.11		H
2025/08/07	Thu	03:27 AM	-0.50		L
2025/08/07	Thu	09:57 AM	3.92		H
2025/08/07	Thu	2:26 PM	2.48		L
2025/08/07	Thu	8:42 PM	6.39		H
2025/08/08	Fri	03:57 AM	-0.68		L
2025/08/08	Fri	10:20 AM	4.12		H
2025/08/08	Fri	3:05 PM	2.20		L

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 7/28
7 35 36 43 62
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 384 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/25
14 21 25 49 52
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 130 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/26
2 10 29 32 37
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 29 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/28
3 17 18 25 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/28
EVENING: 2 4 3
Draw Date: 7/28
MIDDAY: 7 6 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/28
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:46.62

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/28/25 2025108808 The following person(s) is (are) doing business Advancing Women Executives 11846 Ventura Blvd Ste 302 Studio City, CA 91604 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are AWE Solutions, LLC 11846 Ventura Blvd Ste 302 Studio City, CA 91604 If corporation or LLC- Print State of DE This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2025 . Registrant /Corp/LLC AWE Solutions, LLC Title: CEO Member MeikoTakayama . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/28/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25STCP01212 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Jhee Hae Grace Choi for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Jhee Hae Grace Choi court for a decree of changing names as follows: Jhee Hae Grace Choi to Grace Jhee Hae ChoiThe court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 9/05/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 45 Room: 529 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 111 N Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90005. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

LA County Launches $250,000 Grant Program for Malibu-Topanga Businesses

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath has announced the launch of the Malibu-Topanga Business Interruption Fund, a $250,000 grant program to help small businesses recover from economic losses caused by extended road closures following the Palisades Fire.

Horvath secured discretionary funding to create the program, which is administered by the LA County Department of Economic Opportunity in partnership with AidKit. Eligible businesses can receive between $10,000 and $20,000 in financial relief to help offset revenue losses stemming from decreased customer access during prolonged closures of Pacific Coast Highway and Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

> Our local small businesses aren't just surviving challenges — they're shaping the comeback story of Malibu and Topanga
>
> - Lindsey P. Horvath, Los Angeles County Supervisor

"Our local small businesses aren't just surviving challenges — they're shaping the comeback story of Malibu and Topanga," Horvath said. "This fund is about fueling that momentum and making sure every business has a real chance to grow, succeed, and keep these communities moving forward."

Applications opened Jul. 23 and will close Aug. 22 at 5 p.m. Award notifications will be issued in the fall, and payments will be made directly via ACH deposit.

"Our small businesses are the backbone of LA County's economy, and when disaster strikes, we must meet the moment with real support," said Kelly LoBianco, director of the Department of Economic Opportunity. "This is the kind of action that helps businesses not only recover but stay rooted for the long haul."

Malibu Mayor Marianne Riggins said the grant program offers meaningful relief to help local businesses recover and thrive after facing extraordinary hardship from the fires and extended highway closures.

Ron Fomalont, president of the Topanga Chamber of Commerce, said local businesses have been suffering for well over a year due to extensive road closures. Some businesses have been forced to permanently close while others are barely surviving.

"The new Business Interruption Fund will be a lifeline for our shops, restaurants and other businesses and help them survive while they rebuild their customer base," Fomalont said.

To qualify, businesses must be located in Malibu or Topanga, employ 100 or fewer workers, earn no more than $6 million in annual gross revenue, be a storefront business where customers physically come to transact business, have been operating in California before Jan. 1, 2025, and be active and in good standing with all required tax and business licenses.

Priority will be given to businesses that have not previously received financial assistance from the City of Malibu or LA County grant programs.

Apply and learn more at https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/malibu-topanga-business-interruption-fund/

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TRUMP

FROM PAGE 3

tap several state databases to quickly amass troves of sensitive personal information about hundreds of millions of people. Using that information is part of Trump's effort to fulfill his campaign promise of carrying out the largest mass deportation effort in U.S. history.

His administration says collecting the data is aimed at preventing waste and fraud. Trump issued an executive order in March that ordered his administration to have "unfettered access to comprehensive data from all state programs that receive federal funding." In May, NPR reported that the administration sought Social Security numbers, addresses and, for one state, citizenship data, for SNAP recipients. The orders came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and DOGE, the previously Elon Musk-led White House office that sought to slash government spending and was met with numerous lawsuits.

Bonta said the Department of Agriculture "has never once asked states to turn over private and sensitive data on such a massive scale." Now, it seeks five years of data about recipients, according to the attorneys general.

California has already sued Trump for his administration's efforts to collect personal data from people who rely on government services. The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees immigration enforcement, obtained access to people's data held by the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Health and Human Services Agency, including private medical information and other personal details about Medicaid recipients.

Nessel added that California and New York, the states leading the suit, contribute more in taxes to the federal government than they receive in federal services.

"That's our money," Nessel said. "We paid tax dollars to the federal government, then the federal government, you know, routes that money back to us in the form of these essential programs."

She added: "And so when you cut off programming like SNAP, it just goes into the pockets of Trump's friends and billionaires, but we already paid for this stuff."

By Wendy Fry and Mikhail Zinshteyn. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Seven PAL Youth Awarded $33,500 In Scholarships At Chris Carrey PAL Education Fund Celebration

The Police Activities League recently hosted its annual Chris Carrey PAL Education Scholarship Fund recognition ceremony at St. Monica's Grand Pavilion in Santa Monica.

Seven Santa Monica PAL youth, including one junior and six graduating seniors, received individual scholarship funds totaling $33,500. Each recipient received between $3,500 and $7,000 and was honored with a special commendation from Sen. Ben Allen.

More than 100 community stakeholders, supporters and families attended the outdoor event. City Councilmembers Natalya Zernitskaya and Barry Snell, along with Police Chief Ramon Batista, were present to show their continued support of PAL's mission.

The scholarship recipients were Branden Banks, Lupita Leon, Joshua Lesley, Esteban Nunez, Emily Rodriguez, Audry Ventura Vargas and Zoe Ventura Vargas. The graduating seniors plan to attend CSU Northridge, UC Santa Cruz and Santa Monica College, among other institutions.

Two of this year's honorees have participated in PAL programs for more than a decade. Many recipients are the first in their families to attend college, making these awards particularly meaningful.

"Now in its 23rd year, this annual celebration continues to thrive thanks to the unwavering generosity of individuals and businesses—especially Ed Simmons and Metropolis, and longtime supporters Neil and Karen Carrey," said Eula Fritz, director of the Santa Monica Police Activities League. "Their commitment plays a vital role in opening doors for our PAL youth, many of whom rely on this support to pursue their educational goals and build brighter futures."

> Now in its 23rd year, this annual celebration continues to thrive thanks to the unwavering generosity of individuals and businesses—especially Ed Simmons and Metropolis, and longtime supporters Neil and Karen Carrey
> - Eula Fritz, director of the Santa Monica Police Activities League

The Chris Carrey PAL Education Fund was created through a joint gift from Ed Simmons and Standard Parking and Neil and Karen Carrey. Since 2002, the fund has provided scholarships for post-high school education expenses to PAL members who meet required criteria, show financial need and successfully complete an application package.

The scholarships are awarded in memory of Chris Carrey, who lived in Santa Monica for all 16½ years of his life. He was an excellent student in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, excelled in tennis and played bass guitar. Chris wanted to become a chef and performed his community service at PAL.

In its 23 years, more than 130 scholarships totaling more than $440,000 have been awarded to PAL youth in the Santa Monica community.

Santa Monica PAL is located at 1401 Olympic Blvd. For more information, call 310-458-8988 or visit smpal.org.

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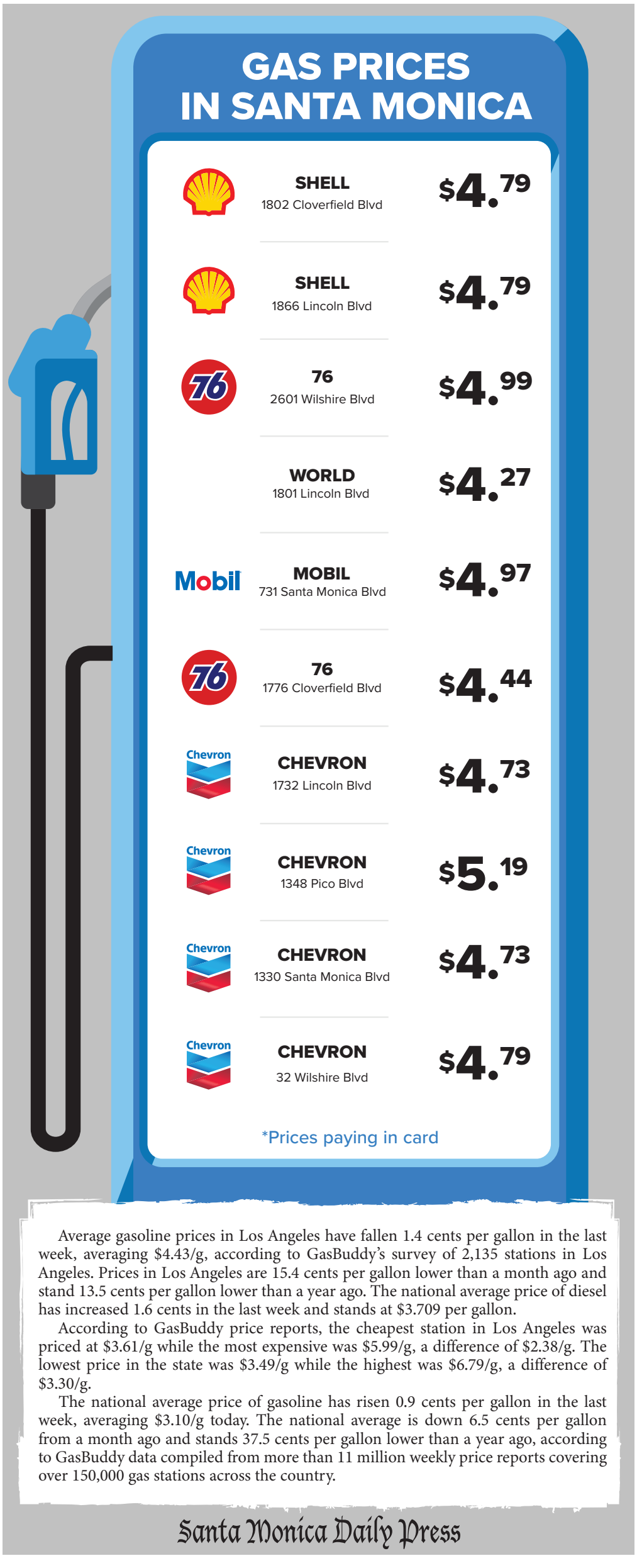


Photo courtesy of Santa Monica PAL

SANTA MONICA POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE (PAL): Now in its 23rd year, more than 130 scholarships totaling more than $440,000 have been awarded to PAL youth in the Santa Monica community.

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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 1.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.43/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 15.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 13.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 1.6 cents in the last week and stands at $3.709 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.61/g while the most expensive was $5.99/g, a difference of $2.38/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.49/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 0.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.10/g today. The national average is down 6.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 37.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

New Malibu High School Building Opens Ahead of Schedule

Construction of the new Malibu High School building has been completed ahead of schedule and on budget, marking a significant milestone for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The state-of-the-art facility is set to open in fall 2025.

The building features flexible, collaborative spaces designed to support project-based learning, critical thinking and creativity. Classrooms and offices are fully finished with modern interior design elements, including new painting, wall paneling and floor coverings that create a student-centered learning environment.

All mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems have been energized and tested for full functionality. Exterior work includes new concrete walkways, retaining seat walls and landscaped areas that meet California Coastal Commission requirements. The school's new wastewater treatment system has passed final evaluations.

"We're excited to welcome students and staff into our brand-new Malibu High School campus this fall 2025," said Principal Adam Almeida. "These new spaces were designed with learning, connection, and innovation in mind, and they represent a major investment in the future of our school community."

The building incorporates eco-friendly solar array panels across the roof and trellis areas, providing renewable energy and advancing the district's sustainability goals.

Following the successful passage of Bond Measure MM in November 2024, planning is underway for future campus phases. Phase 2 will complete the middle school portion, featuring an innovation hub with filming lab, enhanced food service areas with outdoor dining, a special education suite and wellness center. The middle school will also receive a new gymnasium, multipurpose room with locker rooms, and a dance and yoga studio.

Outdoor recreational features will include a rock-climbing slope, bouldering area and slide. Phase 3a will add a 40-meter swimming pool in an enclosed natatorium with separate locker rooms for students and community use.

Construction on Phases 2 and 3a is scheduled to begin in spring 2026, following demolition of the old high school building, art building and portable classrooms.

The district is also addressing energy resilience across Malibu schools in response to frequent power outages from public safety shutoffs. A design-build agreement for alternative power solutions was approved by the Board of Education in May 2025, potentially including solar panels, battery storage and backup generators.

For more information about facility improvement projects, visit https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5601.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

PCH

FROM PAGE 1

corridor. The highway section from Santa Monica to Malibu reopened to traffic May 23 but remains an active work zone.

HELICOPTER OPERATIONS MAY CAUSE ADDITIONAL DELAYS

Drivers should prepare for additional slowdowns this week as Caltrans conducts helicopter operations Wednesday and Thursday to install protective rock mesh on cliffsides about a half-mile north of Big Rock Drive.

The helicopter work, scheduled from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, will install heavy mesh over a large portion of cliffside above PCH near the former Moonshadows Restaurant at 20356 Pacific Coast Highway. The mesh will serve as a protective system to catch rocks and debris as part of slope restoration work resulting from 2023 winter storm damage.

While no additional lane closures are required for the helicopter project, the aircraft will likely draw attention from motorists and could cause traffic slowdowns. The large helicopter will make multiple trips across the landscape from a lift site to the job site during the installation process.

"Motorists are asked to drive with caution and be alert through the area," Caltrans said in a statement. Crews will post changeable message signs on the highway to alert drivers of the upcoming work.

The helicopter operation aims to complete the slope restoration work quickly. Without aerial assistance, installing the mesh would take ground crews several weeks and require additional lane closures on PCH.

The helicopter's planned flight path will minimize disruption by avoiding traffic lanes and city streets, instead passing over adjacent slopes and cliffsides. Crews conducted door-to-door outreach Monday to alert residents within 500 feet of the flight path, with additional notifications planned for Wednesday and Thursday mornings. All marked buildings must be vacated during operations.

Most buildings near the lift site and flight path remain unoccupied due to recent wildfires.

Caltrans reminds drivers that the speed limit is 25 mph in the PCH work zone area, and traffic fines can be doubled. The agency urges motorists to use caution, slow down and remain alert for workers throughout the active construction zone.

I-405 WEEKEND DISRUPTIONS BEGIN

Meanwhile, Los Angeles-area commuters will face separate challenges as Caltrans launches extended weekend lane reductions along Interstate 405 through the Sepulveda Pass.

The first closure, originally scheduled for Aug. 8-11, has been rescheduled to run from 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, through 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 25. The freeway will be reduced to at least three lanes in each direction, with multiple on- and off-ramps closed.

The work is part of the $143.7 million I-405 Pavement Rehabilitation Project between Van Nuys and Westwood. Extended weekend lane closures will occur approximately every two weeks for about 25 weekends, though schedules may change due to weather or operational reasons.

Caltrans strongly encourages motorists to seek alternate routes and explore public transportation options during both the PCH and I-405 construction periods.

editor@smdp.com

PRICE

FROM PAGE 1

out."

The extension comes as tens of thousands of residents remain displaced from the January wildfires, with some families facing potential rent increases of 50% or more as short-term leases signed immediately after the fires expire. A recent Los Angeles Times analysis found rent prices in areas adjacent to the fires are climbing faster than in the rest of the county.

The price gouging protections first activated Jan. 7, 2025, when the board declared a local emergency following the wildfires. State law allows local governments to renew the protections every 30 days when necessary to protect life, property or public welfare.

Since the emergency declaration, the county's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs has received more than 3,800 consumer complaints alleging price gouging, with the vast majority related to housing. The department has sent more than 1,800 cease-and-desist letters to businesses, property owners, landlords and real estate professionals, and made over 230 referrals to a Price Gouging Task Force for further investigation.

The board has taken increasingly aggressive action to combat price gouging since January. Supervisors unanimously raised maximum civil penalties from $10,000 to $50,000 per violation — five times the standard state penalty — targeting landlords exploiting displaced residents who faced rent hikes of 50% to 100% above pre-fire rates.

The board also enacted comprehensive eviction protections, initially shielding tenants who sheltered fire evacuees from eviction for housing "unauthorized occupants." Supervisors approved a countywide eviction moratorium through July 31 for renters experiencing wildfire-related financial hardship, paired with a $10 million emergency rent relief fund.

To assist displaced residents directly, the board established the Los Angeles County Fire Recovery Fund with $32.2 million in federal rescue funds, providing cash assistance grants of up to $18,000 to help cover housing costs and essential expenses.

The county also moved to reduce rebuilding costs by waiving all county permitting and inspection fees for wildfire survivors reconstructing destroyed homes, potentially saving homeowners tens of thousands of dollars.

Earlier this month, the board moved to strengthen enforcement by advancing an urgency ordinance that would expand the county's ability to hold violators accountable. The proposed ordinance would empower the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to issue administrative fines, secure restitution for victims and apply more meaningful penalties to prevent illegal price hikes.

The price-gouging protections extend beyond rentals to cover hotels, construction services and building materials, with violations carrying criminal penalties under California Penal Code Section 396.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has also provided statewide protections for wildfire survivors. His executive orders extended price gouging protections on rental housing, hotels and motel rates while retaining exemptions for large homes in high-value zip codes that haven't recently been on the rental market and newly constructed housing to help increase supply.

Newsom's orders also suspended laws that would classify hotel and motel occupants as tenants after 30 days, giving displaced residents more time to find alternative housing, and prioritized fire survivors experiencing homelessness on waiting lists for state-funded housing programs to help them secure housing faster.

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HOUSING

FROM PAGE 2

to buy a new one — and in the process losing the coveted low rate in exchange for a high one — a losing financial proposition.

An analysis by economists at the Federal Housing Finance Agency found that the majority of borrowers in mid-2024 had a rate below 4%. A typical new mortgage, on the other hand, is likely to come with a rate of more than 6.5%.

That difference comes with a steep financial price tag. If the average mortgage payer were to swap out their existing loan for one at the new rate, they would pay another $398 per month, the agency researchers estimated.

The effect is even more pronounced in California, where property values are particularly high. The median sales price on a single family home across the state is just shy of $900,000, according to the state association of Realtors.

Even small changes in interest rates on such a massive purchase add up.

A typical California borrower would pay an extra $675 every month if they were to take on the same mortgage at current rates, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency report. In San Francisco, it's an extra $915. That's a compelling reason not to sell.

California homeowners have even more reasons to hunker down.

Since 1979, when the prior year's Proposition 13 went into effect, property taxes in California have been tied to the purchase price of a home and only allowed to increase at a modest rate. With real estate prices across the state trending upward ever since, that's created yet another kind of "lock-in effect:" The longer that a person owns a home, the less they pay in property taxes compared to a new buyer.

"When people are doing the math about how much money it would cost them to move and they look at the mortgage expense, and then on top of that, the property tax expense, it's not worth it," said Fairweather.

Absent an influx of new listings, aspiring homeowners looking for the opportunity to buy will need to wait on new construction to deliver. But new supply has essentially flatlined over the last decade, despite a bevy of state legislation aimed at boosting more development. Fairweather said she isn't optimistic that that's likely to change soon — and the lock-in effect on property owners is one reason why.

"I'm skeptical that owners of single-family homes are going to give up the land to actually build enough housing to make a difference," she said. "It's good that all those laws change, but I feel like they might be muted in their impact because of all the other forces that are pointing towards single-family neighborhoods staying exactly the same."

By Ben Christopher. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 456 Economic Consultant for Digital Signage Ordinance on Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade

- **Submission Deadline is August 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive no later than the below-stated date and time, sealed BIDS from General Contractors. The Project encompasses the following overall scope:

Track, Field, and Scoreboard Replacement::
The project includes the following features: Resurfacing the Existing Track Surface-Includes surface preparation, patching, and application of new track surfacing and striping for athletic performance. Replacement of Synthetic Turf Field- Complete removal and disposal of the existing turf system, subgrade preparation, and installation of new synthetic turf with infill. Removal of Existing Scoreboard Assembly: Disconnection and removal of the current scoreboard and associated components. Installation of New Digital Display System Includes furnishing and installing a new ID panel, video display, scoreboard, and clock box on the exterior of the existing Parking Structure "C", with all necessary electrical and data connections.

Procedure:

Tuesday, July 29, 2025, bid packages will be available at ARC West LA Branch located at 1736 S Sepulveda Bivd. Los Angeles, CA 90025.
Contact for all inquiries: **Kyle Whitley, Senior Project Manager, kyle.whitley@vanir.com; Mathew Denuccio, Project Manager, matt.denuccio@vanir.com**
Contractor's License Classification: California Contractors License A or B.
Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk: **Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 1:00 PM. 2121 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS: 1:00 PM, September 8, 2025, BID MUST BE HAND DELIVERED

LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: CHARLIE YEN. **September 8, 2025**

1. Contractors License Classification. In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §3300, the District requires that contractors possess the following classifications) of California Contractors License **A or B.** Any General Contractor not so duly and properly licensed will result in denial of pre-qualification.

2. Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506). The District has established a Labor Compliance Program ('LCP") pursuant to Labor Code 1771.5. The Contractor qualifying to bid the work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.

3. No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals. Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of **ninety (90)** days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.

4. Award of Contract. The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees on **October 7, 2025,** to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsible and responsive Bid Proposal

Publication Date: July 28th & August 4th
Last Day to Submit Bid RFI and Bid Product Substitution Request **August 25, 2025**
Post Bid Review: The week of September 8, 2025

SPONSORED CONTENT

CANCELING HOUSE FIRES BY USING FREE GREY WATER AND ELECTRIC PUMPS

Wildfire experts say that house fires are usually started by windblown burning embers from brush fires. The other important cause of fires is downed electrical lines.

Many of the thousands of homes and buildings that burned in Pacific Palisades and Eaton/Altadena might have been saved with a new fire prevention system built around storage and distribution of Grey Water using electric pumps to irrigate the roofs and sides of structures in the fire zones. Irrigating the exterior surfaces of houses and buildings helps prevent windblown embers from igniting house and building fires.

Grey Water (every drain except toilets) is about 80% of household use, averaging 160 gallons per day, is essentially wasted and can overwhelm sewage systems. Excluding kitchen sink Grey Water reduces the amount to approximately 130 gallons per day which can be reused. In the meantime, Grey Water is being circulated by electric pumps into and out of a water tank maintaining a volume of 2000 gallons to be available in case of a wildfire and flying embers. 130 gallons/day x 365 days x 7,000 houses equals approximately 325 million gallons per year of free Grey Water available to help maintain landscape in the Palisades and about 425 million gallons per year to help maintain landscape in Eaton/ Altadena, which lost more than lost 9,000 structures.

The combined total of 750 million gallons/year of Grey Water used for watering trees and landscape could also be used for maintaining swimming pools. Realize Safety has developed high volume spraying systems to saturate individual and surrounding properties using water pumped directly from swimming pools to fight fires first hand.

On top of using Grey Water to irrigate fire preventative landscape and fill swimming pools, excess water could be invaluable in replenishing ground water via Dry Wells.

New construction would include solar panels/battery storage powering the electric pumps which are needed when the electrical grids are shut down during strong windy conditions. Downed electrical lines started devastating fires in the Palisades and Altadena.

A below ground 2000 gallon water tank costs about $4,000 and holds more than enough water to prevent a fire on an average size house and property along with keeping shrubs and trees watered. Grey Water could maintain a healthy lawn with its many benefits including emitting oxygen and humidity and capturing carbon and dust. Grey water could also be used for watering native fire-resistant plants and trees planted after highly combustible brush is cleared from hillsides. Fire resistant planting helped in successfully preventing a fire in an Orange County development. Recent discussion has recommended circling the whole development with fire resistant trees and shrubs, especially on houses built on upslope. Provided there is enough room, even have a lawn, acting as a fire break, in between. Obviously, it would be the type of grass, like Bermuda, that spreads and thrives being trimmed as short as 3/4". Since the outsides of structures would be protected with water/foam irrigation, fire departments could concentrate on 'maintaining the perimeter' by extinguishing brush fires using fire hydrants and water dropping planes and helicopters.

Grey Water from baths, showers, and wash basins still needs filtering to be safely reused for watering landscape and maintaining swimming pools. The Grey Water is first collected in a small holding tank before being pumped through a filter into the 2000 gallon tank containing a two horsepower submerged electric pump. The electric pump which moves the water through the filter is much smaller. The water used for irrigating the sides and roofs of structures needs GreenFire foaming agent which reduces surface tension allowing water to spread out more easily and be 'stickier'. This forms a thick foam/water emulsion on the walls and roofs of houses and buildings in fire zones to help extinguish windblown embers before they start fires. Even with fire hardened construction including heat resistant windows there is still the threat of radiant heat plus the action of numerous embers striking the heat resistant windows causing cracking and breakage. Radiant heating of the outside of the structure also causes convection heat buildup inside the structure. This can lead to increased pressure and the threat of windows being blown out from the inside and flaming embers being blown in. So irrigating the outsides of structures, including widows, helps put out flying embers but it also helps prevent radiant heat from entering the insides. Note that flame resistant windows are not flame proof and can only withstand intense radiant heat and flaming embers for a maximum of 2 hrs. and need water/foam irrigation protection/cooling from an active Grey Water System.

Currently the regulations in Los Angeles County require Grey Water plumbing in all new construction. Adding a Grey Water Fire Prevention system, using PEX including filtering, could cost 20,000 to $30,000 which is about 3% of the total value of a million dollar house, a very good investment. Looking at costs from another standpoint it would cost about $2 billion to add complete Grey Water Protection Systems to 7,000 properties as opposed to the $180 billion loss that the Palisades suffered. In other words, the cost of prevention would be about 1% of the estimated cost of destruction. Grey Water Protection could also be added to existing structures in high hazard areas. It would be in the interests of local government and insurance companies to help with the costs of installing Grey Water Protection. In fact, an effective fire prevention system could make getting fire insurance possible and much cheaper and available where insurance companies are opting out because of high risk.

In the Palisades, there are many improvements that can be made: The most important being maintaining the 117 million gallon Santa Inez Reservoir. The three one million gallon water tanks in the Palisades hills that were supplying water to houses and hydrants were depleted in the first twelve hours of the fire. This was partially because 'smart' check valves were not installed at the service entrances of houses and water would run out over burned properties. But the main reason for the depletion was the DWP shutting off water because it was needed for the fires spreading east. The three million gallons of water used from the three tanks over 12 hours, or 250,000 gallons per hour could have been replenished with a 500 horsepower gas water pump pumping water from a full Santa Ynez Reservoir. Other improvements, on top of installing the service entrance 'smart' check valves, would be placing fire hydrants and planting fire resistant trees and shrubs around the perimeter of the development.

The Palisades can get control over their water system by relegating the DWP to only replenishing the Santa Inez Reservoir. In the event of another horrific fire and the DWP stops water delivery, the reservoir contains more than enough water to outlast any fire in the Palisades and the Palisades could gain control over water going to houses and fire hydrants. Grey Water irrigation on the roofs and sides of houses would offer protection while the Fire Departments would concentrate fighting the brush fires using water from fire hydrants and water drops from planes and helicopters. The Santa Ynez Reservoir is in the hills above the Palisades Highlands and could offer protection in the immediate area, and downwind, via high power firefighting water cannons capable of delivering 18,500 gallons/minute to a distance of 600 feet. The prevailing wind in the wildfire was north by northeast and most of the Palisades is to the south and southwest, and in the path. Spraying water from the ground can be an effective way to impede a wildfire.

Rebuilding should incorporate the flame resistant features of the houses that survived the Palisades fire. Their main features were cement siding (could have been stucco) and an insulated metal roof without eaves. Tile could be added to metal roofs as a design prerogative. Other features would include insulated windows that help stop heat penetration, insulated and screened venting on the roof and crawl space, plus insulated steel doors and steel gutters.

Since some fires start in the middle of the night, satellites and drones equipped with infrared cameras could be tasked with alerting fire prevention headquarters and the Grey Water electric pumps could be activated remotely in the area of a fire. If the satellites and drones fail, the Grey Water pumps could also be activated by heat or smoke or both. Obviously, there should be fire alarms/sirens in high threat areas connected to the fire headquarters, along with remote start-up of the Grey Water pumps. The heat or smoke activated fire alarms should be to be heard for minimum of five miles. In the Palisades fire, Grey Water systems would have provided an additional 14 million gallons of free Grey Water. These 14 million gallons could have been for fire prevention, instead of fire fighting, before houses and buildings became fully engulfed in flames. Solar powered electric pumps, with battery back-up, would operate when electrical grids are shut down.

It would take less than 2 hours to disperse the entire 2,000 gallon tank of filtered Grey Water. But the 2,000 gallons of Grey Water could be used over a week or more, as needed, keeping houses/ buildings and landscaping irrigated to help prevent a disastrous wild fire from destroying structures. There could also be a requirement that new construction would include solar and all electric appliances. This would remove the hazard of gas appliances along with their increased carbon pollution.

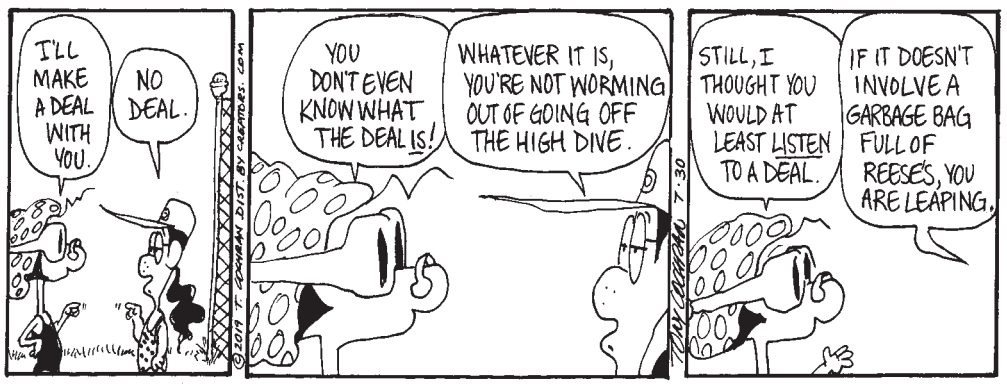
These words give a rough outline of fire prevention, fire fighting ideas and require extensive design and engineering work to be realized including mechanical, electrical, electronic and hydraulic engineering plus creative and innovative thinking.

When the next brush fire happens, fire retarding construction and planting plus integrated Grey Water Irrigation Systems would help prevent the catastrophic destruction seen in the Pacific Palisades and Eaton/Altadena fires.

Richard Parr Santa Monica Email: reparr@verizon.net Ph. 310-394-0088

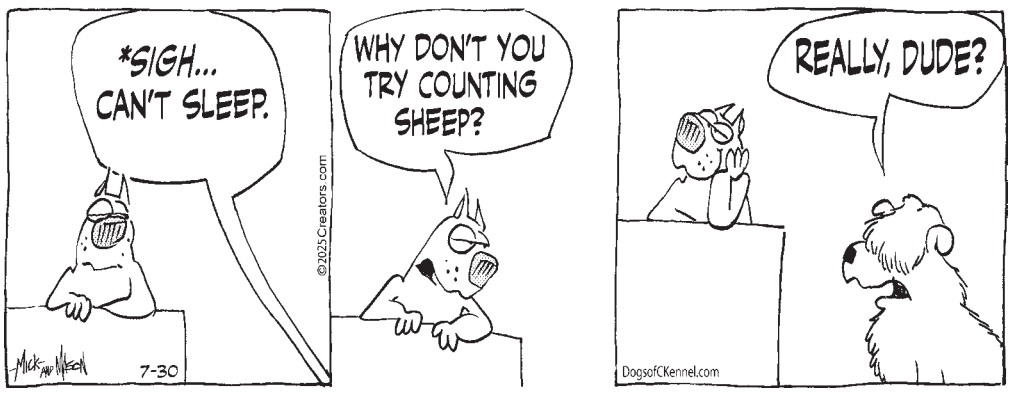
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By TONY COCHRAN



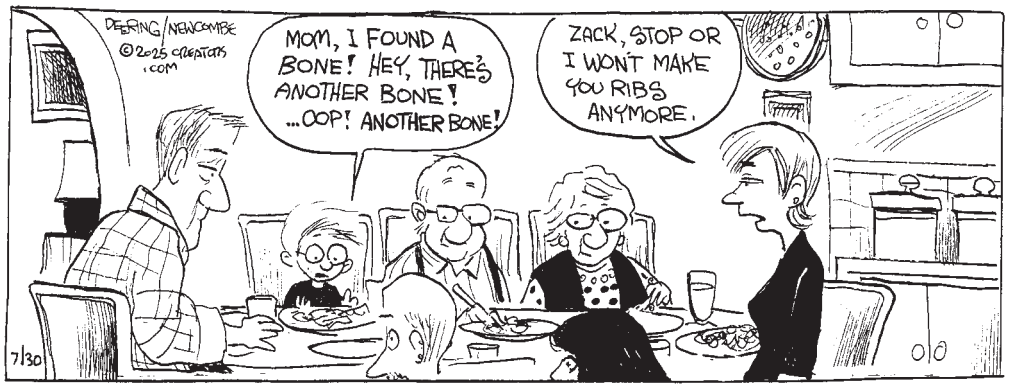
Dogs of C-Kennel

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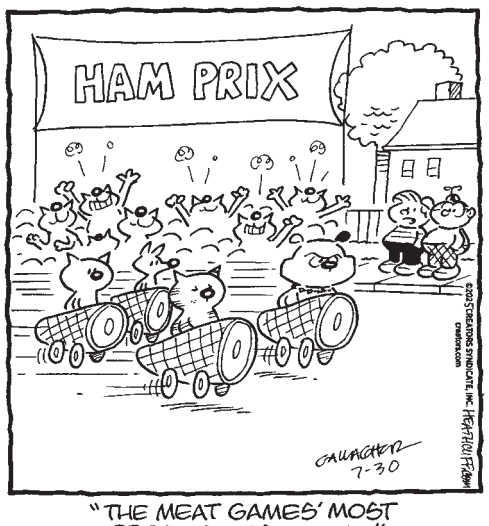
Zack Hill

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Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6652

New England Plateau

C	T	S	E	R	O	F	L	O	R	A	P	A	R	O
R	U	G	G	E	D	L	E	G	U	M	E	N	D	S
I	K	I	N	G	S	P	L	A	I	N	S	U	D	N
S	R	A	C	O	P	P	E	R	S	U	C	A	O	R
P	A	H	C	L	A	W	L	T	I	T	I	F	R	E
N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	P	A	R	K	S	R	F
S	H	E	E	P	R	B	U	S	Y	W	T	V	I	R
T	E	O	F	G	O	S	A	S	A	R	N	R	G	O
R	G	C	E	I	L	M	D	I	E	A	L	E	O	S
O	U	N	L	W	S	U	M	A	W	R	S	A	T	T
U	Y	E	O	L	T	B	M	I	E	N	P	O	K	A
T	R	L	O	S	U	S	A	D	E	E	C	A	H	E
S	A	G	W	L	N	N	R	D	E	K	N	D	S	H
S	T	I	L	L	A	O	C	L	D	U	S	T	U	W
A	R	K	O	O	B	A	K	O	O	K	G	O	L	D

Anaiwan	Dust	Kookabookra	Rugged
Boilers	East	Kwaimbul	Sheep
Border	Fauna	Lake	Still
Busy	Ferns	Large	Stock
Cars	Flora	Legume	Streams
Coal	Forest	Lush	Studs
Copper	Frost	National	Trout
Crisp	Glencoe	parks	Walcha
Dairy	Gold	Nuts	Wheat
Dense	Guyra	Owls	Wool
Dorrigo	Kingsplains	Peel	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 30)

This year is filled with signs, symbols and soul-level connections. You'll speak your intentions softly and watch them come true with surprising swiftness. You'll receive favors just when needed, as though the universe planned it with your calendar in mind. More highlights: a signature look or phrase that becomes iconic, a fluke that turns lucrative, and a romantic plot twist you didn't see coming. Aries and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 13, 20, 14 and 6.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Feelings are real, but they don't run the show. You're choosing from a wider view — long-term goals, real needs, what actually matters. This is you showing up like a boss, doing what needs doing without getting tangled in passing moods.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Feeling at ease inside yourself leads to a better time with others. Words won't trip you up. You'll catch the meaning beneath them — the feeling, the intention — and that's where the real fun begins.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People will ask things that poke at you. Stay wild. Stay private. There's no rule that says you must explain yourself. Mystery is a right. You decide how much to reveal. You decide what parts of you are made public.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You used to know how to do something, and though it's been a long while, you still do. It's not gone. It's waiting. If you're tired of going through the motions, try this: Don't go through them. Dance through them. Skip through them. Make them strange again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't be too quick to call out your strengths and be even more reticent to name your weaknesses. You are among the least qualified people to judge the matter. And besides, with a little encouragement, you can expand far past former limits.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're in this spot for a reason. Maybe you're still growing into it — that's how it works. The ones who care most always wonder if they belong. That question doesn't hold you back. It keeps you awake, aware, rising.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've outgrown a rule you used to live by. Maybe it got you here, but it won't take you farther. You're ready to move with more freedom, more trust in your own timing. The old map doesn't show what's next.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Attention finds you — it always does. But the real gold is in where you place your focus. Choose beauty. Choose aliveness. Choose the thing that makes you lean in. Choose what makes you laugh out loud.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stay loose. Say the wild thing. Ask the better question. Let someone surprise you. This isn't a time for outlines or rehearsals. Ditch the polished prose for sparks. The best parts happen in the unscripted moments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You showed up for the shine and stayed for the sweat. What pulled you in isn't the same thing keeping you here, and that's the best part. The real reward has been found inside the doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your impatience is actually a good thing now because you won't wait for the perfect opening, you'll just make one. You'll say the thing, start the story, create appetites and desire where none existed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a tiny detail that wants your attention, and once you give it, everything clicks. It's the loose thread, the half-finished thought, the text you meant to send. Clean it up, stitch it closed, and then watch how smooth things move.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

O	O	P	S	■	D	A	M	P	■	O	C	T	E	T
C	H	A	I	■	E	V	E	R	■	N	A	I	V	E
C	A	N	T	O	N	E	S	E	■	A	N	N	E	X
U	R	G	E	N	T	■	S	T	O	U	T	E	S	T
R	E	S	■	S	A	G	■	V	O	T	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	E	L	E	B	■	H	O	R	R	I	D
A	T	B	A	T	■	N	O	M	E	■	B	E	T	A
L	E	O	N	■	F	I	X	E	D	■	U	N	I	T
S	C	O	T	■	R	E	E	L	■	P	R	O	N	E
O	H	B	A	B	Y	■	R	E	P	L	Y	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	I	E	S	■	E	R	A	■	C	M	L
T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W	■	E	N	T	R	E	E
O	K	B	U	T	■	C	A	N	T	E	R	I	N	G
G	R	A	P	H	■	K	N	I	T	■	A	M	S	O
O	A	S	E	S	■	S	E	X	Y	■	P	E	A	S

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

1	7	5	6	9	4	3	8	2
4	2	6	3	7	8	5	1	9
9	8	3	2	1	5	4	7	6
6	5	1	9	8	7	2	4	3
3	9	7	1	4	2	8	6	5
8	4	2	5	3	6	7	9	1
7	6	9	4	2	3	1	5	8
5	3	8	7	6	1	9	2	4
2	1	4	8	5	9	6	3	7

			7		6		4	
1		7		8		9		6
		3		5				
	3				8			
5		6	9	7	3	2		4
			2				6	
				2		4		
7		8		4		5		1
	5		1		7			

Newsday Crossword

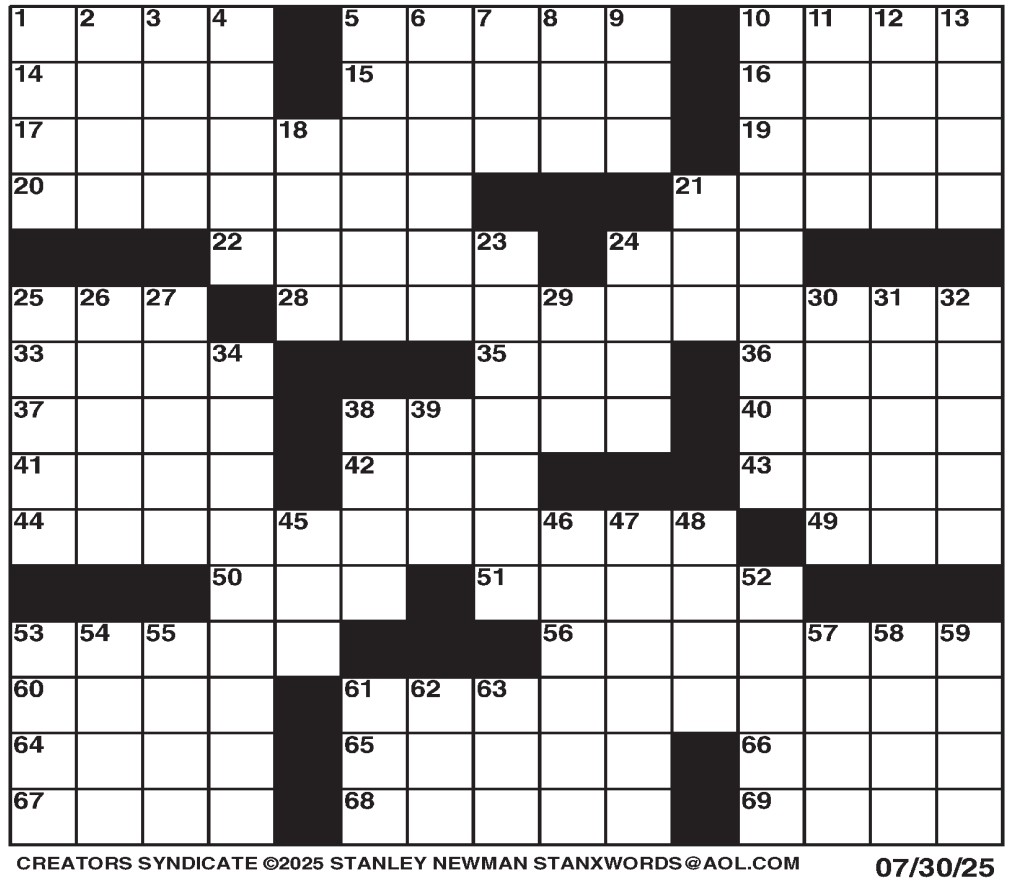
SQUARE ROOTS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Kindergarten basics
5 Agile as a gymnast
10 Prefix for final
14 Just hang around
15 Spanish farewell
16 Shakespeare's river
17 Fried circular side dish
19 Allow to borrow
20 Tennis tourney favorite
21 Wander off
22 Got a visit from
24 "In what way?"
25 Sci. of farming
28 Picnic side dish
33 __ moss (garden mulch)
35 Waiter's reward
36 Garment worn by Nero
37 Peruvian ancestor
38 Superior beef rating
40 Biblical paradise
41 Christmas song
42 ET's vehicle
43 Rip to shreds
44 Pizzeria's baked snack
49 Farm enclosure
50 Acorn bearer
51 Not as iffy
53 Bracelet ornament
56 Most swanky
60 Bunch of buffaloes
61 Dessert with orange morsels
64 Lake bordering Cleveland
65 Admit, with "to"
66 On an __ keel
67 Feeling of dread
68 Architect's drawings
69 Dark-colored wines

DOWN

1 All the time
2 Lawyer's pro __ work
3 Short movie excerpt
4 Walk through puddles
5 Texas city on the Rio Grande
6 Cry of accomplishment
7 Soft metal
8 49-Across resident
9 Double-twist letter
10 What fills oceans
11 At any time
12 __ *Lisa*
13 Annual May car contest, for short
18 Type of tide
21 Mariner's call for help
23 Olympic team assemblers
24 Be optimistic
25 Imitating
26 Port of Italy
27 13-Down participant
29 *A Christmas Carol* kid
30 Rich mine deposits
31 Commission collector
32 Fine and __ (wonderful)
34 Formidable task
38 Disk on ice
39 '60s presidential brother
45 "Unaccustomed as __..."
46 Defeat in a dash
47 Boy Scout groups
48 Shipped away
52 Vegetable gadget
53 Food Network demonstrator
54 Roll call reply
55 Soprano solo
57 Spot for an icicle
58 Timetable, informally
59 Till bills
61 Radar user
62 Hole-punching tool
63 Molecule used for vaccines



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07/30/25

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

CHARIOTS

FROM PAGE 1

massive procession.

"It's open to everybody," said Karuna, an ISKCON organizer. "The majority of people attending are non-Hindu, non-Hare Krishna" participants who often "wander in from the beach in swim attire."

The festival's centerpiece features three elaborately decorated chariots, each standing 40 to 50 feet tall and adorned with red, blue and gold cloth, fresh flower garlands and colorful flags. The chariots carry statues of Lord Jagannath, Lady Subhadra and Lord Balarama and are pulled entirely by human power using thick rope cables.

The Venice celebration traces its roots to the ancient Ratha Yatra tradition from Jagannath Puri, India, where enormous chariots have been pulled through streets for centuries in what's considered the world's oldest street festival. The tradition was introduced to the Western world in 1967 by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, ISKCON's founder.

The first Los Angeles Festival of the Chariots was held in 1977 along the Santa Monica-Venice route, establishing an annual tradition that has run for over 40 years with only a two-year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For ISKCON devotees, the festival carries profound spiritual significance. The parade commemorates a joyous homecoming of the divine, symbolizing God being lovingly drawn back to the hearts of devotees. Participants believe that helping pull the chariots yields spiritual benefit "beyond even good karma," said to confer liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

"The goal is to promote unity and spiritual upliftment: transcending social barriers and reminding everyone of our shared higher purpose of love and service," organizers explained.

The religious celebration centers on kirtan, the congregational chanting of sacred mantras, particularly the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra. As the chariots roll, hundreds join in singing and dancing, creating what observers describe as a moving temple of sound and joy.

Once the chariots arrive at Windward Plaza, the festivities expand into a cultural festival featuring two entertainment stages, live dance and drama performances, cultural exhibits, an Indian imports bazaar and numerous vegetarian food booths. ISKCON volunteers will serve a free vegetarian lunch to approximately 10,000 guests on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cultural performances highlight the diversity of Indian arts, including classical Bharata Natyam dance by the renowned Shakti Dance Troupe, which has performed at the festival since its inception. The 2025 event will feature live entertainment, children's activities, yoga demonstrations, mantra meditation workshops and presentations by spiritual teachers.

Recent festivals have included special guest speakers such as Raghunath Cappo and Kaustubha Das, hosts of the popular "Wisdom of the Sages" podcast, who lead interactive spiritual talks and guided meditations.

The festival runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the festival site, with admission free to the public. According to the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the event serves as both a Hindu religious celebration and a colorful cultural festival that attracts Angelenos from many traditions.

Many local families make the festival an annual outing, with children often seen dancing to drums on stage or trying on Indian costumes. The come-as-you-are atmosphere creates what one organizer described as a "feeling of love and brotherhood" exemplified by seeing people of all backgrounds "dancing on the Boardwalk and singing the mantra with us."

For more information, visit www.festivalofchariots.com or call 310-836-4342.

maaz@smdp.com





WEDNESDAY | JULY 30

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-/14548476/2025-07-02T12

KATHLEEN KAUFMAN TO THE STORE TO DISCUSS AND SIGN

6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. Feminist Gothic horror author Kathleen Kaufman presents a thrillingly atmospheric and exquisitely evocative tale of feminine rage set at the height of the Spiritualist Movement in The Entirely True Story of the Fantastical Mesmerist Nora Grey, a shadowy blend of historical fiction and horror that takes place at the dawn of the 20th Century. Nora Grey follows a young woman, Narina, who is pulled from a lifetime of hoax seances and roadside tarot readings by the powerful yet mysterious Edinburgh Spiritualist Society. Recognizing that Narina has true power, the Spiritualists encourage Narina to cross the veil and make a connection with her 'spirit guide,' a spirit who can help her communicate with others from beyond the grave. In doing so, Narina's psychic abilities shatter the barriers between space and time, leading her to form a bond with another young woman wrongfully imprisoned in an infamous asylum decades before Narina's birth. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/kathleen-kaufman-to-the-store-to-discuss-and-sign/16239573/2025-07-30T18

THURSDAY | JULY 31

AUTHOR TALK WITH PRIA ANAND

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. You're invited to a fascinating conversation with neurologist and author Pria Anand to chat about her new book The Mind Electric: A Neurologist on the Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains (forthcoming June 10, 2025). The Mind Electric speaks to the stories we tell ourselves about our brains, and the stories that our brains tell to us. A girl believes she has been struck blind for stealing a kiss. A mother watches helplessly as each of her children is replaced by a changeling. A woman is haunted each month by the same four chords of a single song. In neurology, illness is inextricably linked with narrative, the clues to unraveling these mysteries hidden in both the details of a patient's story and the tells of their body. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/author-talk-with-pria-anand/16144069/2025-07-31T11

COMMUNITY PICNIC

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Hwy Santa Monica. An annual tradition, everyone is invited to pack a dinner and grab some pals for good old-fashioned summertime fun. Planned activities include games, crafts, an epic tug-of-war, and more! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/community-picnic/15715287/2025-07-31T17

ARTS/CRAFTS

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/arts-crafts/14712446/2025-07-17T11

FRIDAY | AUGUST 1

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-night-sky-show/14165546/2025-07-11T19

SATURDAY | AUGUST 2

COMPOST

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. City Yards 2500 Michigan Ave Santa Monica. Recycling Event City Yard Parking Lot 2500 Michigan Ave (2nd gate entrance). Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/compost/14712444/2025-08-02T09

NOGI JUDO FOR JIU-JITSU "WRESTLE-JUDO-JITSU"

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Meraki 11652 West Olympic Boulevard Los Angeles. Join us for an exciting event - NoGi Judo for Jiu-Jitsu "Wrestle-Judo-Jitsu"! Whether you're a seasoned practitioner or just starting out, this event at Meraki is perfect for you. Learn the art of Judo without the traditional Gi, tailored for Jiu-Jitsu enthusiasts. Embrace the fusion of Wrestling, Judo, and Jiu-Jitsu in a dynamic setting. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to expand your skills and have a blast on the mats! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/nogi-judo-for-jiu-jitsu-wrestle-judo-jitsu-/16268017/2025-08-02T10

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Hosteling Intl. 1436 2nd Street Santa Monica. Join the Santa Monica Conservancy's Downtown Walking Tour. Discover downtown Santa Monica's architectural gems, history, and culture. From Art Deco to Victorian and Romanesque Revival, you'll explore the various styles that fill the streets of Santa Monica. Explore downtown's diverse architectural heritage, including Bay Cities Guaranty Building, El Miro Theater, Georgian Hotel, Gussie Moran House, Keller Block and more! The Downtown Walking Tour is FREE for Conservancy members, FREE for guests staying at Hostelling International, and $10 for the general public. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-walking-tour/15830816/2025-08-02T10

BENEFITTING THE YOUTH OF THE

SANTA MONICA POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE



POKER TOURNAMENT

PAL SANTA MONICA

21 & OVER

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Check-In, Dinner & Bar | 5:00 PM

Poker Lessons | 5:30 PM

First Hand Dealt | 6:00 PM SHARP

Santa Monica Moose Lodge | 1600 Ocean Park Blvd.

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